

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 AGR-05 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OES-03 /052 W

----- 064667

R 100200Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6206

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0614

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, LA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL TO LAOS

1. UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR I.G. PETEL VISITED LAOS
FEBRUARY 27-29 FOR "INFORMAL TALKS" WITH LAO AUTHORITIES
ABOUT UNDP PROGRAM HERE.

2. ACCORDING TO UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE GUARDA,
PATEL CAME TO BANGKOK IN FEBRUARY FOR MEETING ABOUT TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BECAUSE LAO OFFICIALS
INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PATEL, HE
ARRANGED TWO-DAY TRIP TO VIENTIANE. IN VIENTIANE, PATEL CALLED
ON THEN ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE
SIPRASEUTH. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KHAMPHAY
BOUPHA GAVE DINNER FOR PATEL ATTENDED BY LAO OFFICIALS.

3. GUARDA TOLD EMBOFF THAT PATEL DISCUSSED WITH LAO OFFICIALS
LEVEL OF UNDP PROGRAM FUNDING FOR LAOS AND TYPES OF PROGRAMS
DESIRED BY LAO. UNDP PROGRAM FOR LAOS HAS BEEN FUNDED AT
APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION DOLLARS U.S. A YEAR FOR LAST SEVERAL
YEARS. FOR 1976, LOCAL UNDP REPS HAD PLANNED TO SPEND 2.2
MILLION DOLLARS IN LAOS. HOWEVER, GUARDA SAID UNDP "LIQUIDITY
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CRISIS" HAS CAUSED CUTBACKS ON UNDP PROGRAMS

WORLDWIDE. PROGRAM FOR LAOS HAD BEEN CUT TO 1 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1976, BUT, IN MID-FEBRUARY AT REQUEST OF LOCAL UNDP OFFICE, FUNDING FOR LAO PROGRAM WAS RAISED TO 1.6 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1976. GUARDA STATED UNDP EXPECTED TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY 3 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR ON PROGRAMS IN LAOS FOR YEARS 1977-1982.

4. LAO CONFIRMED TO PATEL THAT THEY WANTED ASSISTANCE PRIMARILY IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT. LOCAL UNDP OFFICE ALSO HAS ONGOING PROJECTS IN INDUSTRY (WOOD-WORKING AND FOUNDRIES) AND IN EDUCATION. UNDP HAS PROPOSED PROJECT FOR CREATING RURAL HEALTH CENTERS. LAO HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAVE SPECIFIED UNDP SHOULD BRING IN SEVERAL CUBAN DOCTORS TO RUN THIS PROJECT.

5. GUARDA STATED PATEL WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY LAO OFFICIALS DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT AND LAO INDICATED TO PATEL THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME INCREASED UNDP ASSISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-1086
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaacmtj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL TO LAOS
TAGS: EAID, LA, UNDP, (PATEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006